

support of the global war on terror. Major Rogers has received numerous awards and commendations during his service including the Bronze Star and the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal. He was also honored in 2005 as the 20th Air Force Outstanding Young Judge Advocate.

Mr. President, I want to give my heartfelt thank you to Thom for his service. His eagerness to tackle issues which were new to him and to advance the goals I have set for my staff on behalf of both the men and women of the Armed Forces and the citizens of New Mexico were truly commendable. I have no doubt that as Thom continues his military career, he will achieve great things for both the U.S. Air Force and his country, and I wish him the very best of luck in all his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING GEORGE OSMOND

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in honor of a friend of mine, Mr. George Osmond, who, on Thursday, November 6, passed away. While most people will likely remember George as the patriarch of one of our Nation's most famous entertainment families, he should also be remembered as a great humanitarian and entrepreneur.

George was born in 1917 in Star Valley, WY. As a young man, in 1941, he enlisted in the Army and served honorably during World War II. In 1944, he was stationed at the U.S. Army's General Depot in Ogden, UT, where he met his wife, Olive May Davis. George and Olive were married in December 1944 and had nine children, eight boys and one girl.

To most, George's early professional life was quite normal. He began his career selling real estate and life insurance. He later took a position as the Ogden Postmaster. During that time, his sons began to study music; George taught them to sing barbershop and helped them get invitations to perform at community events. His family first entered the national spotlight when four of his sons, Alan, Wayne, Merrill and Jay, formed a quartet known as "the Osmond Brothers" and began performing at Disneyland and on The Andy Williams Show.

Over the years, seven of his nine children would perform a variety of music styles all over the world. All counted, the Osmond family has recorded 142 albums, selling 100 million copies with 51 gold and platinum recordings. George, himself, worked as the manager of his children's music careers, working to make sure they remained grounded and focused on the importance of family.

One of the lesser known facts about the Osmond family is that two of the Osmond children, the oldest sons Virl and Tom, were born deaf. While these two sons were never music performers, they were closely involved with their father's charitable efforts, working with him to establish The Osmond

Foundation, which later became the Children's Miracle Network.

The Children's Miracle Network is now headquartered in Salt Lake City and has, to date, raised more \$3 billion, which is distributed directly to a network of 170 hospitals. These funds are raised specifically for children's hospitals, medical research and community awareness of children's health issues. It is the largest organization of its kind in the world and is, in addition to their many children and grandchildren, George and Olive Osmond's greatest legacy.

Mr. President, I knew George Osmond for many years. He was, above all else, devoted to his family and a man of integrity. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities I have had over the years to work with him and his family on several charitable endeavors. George was truly a remarkable man who leaves a long legacy here with us in his passing. I want to express my deepest condolences to George's family and thank them for their wonderful example of service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING SALLY SMITH

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a great friend of mine and a wonderful woman and leader. Sally Smith passed away December 1, 2007, from complications related to myeloma. Sally founded the Lab School in Washington, DC, one of the premier educational institutions in the Nation for students with learning disabilities. The Lab School is a place where children with learning disabilities are nurtured, taught, given the tools to succeed and the opportunity to flourish. And nearly all of them do.

I had heard what an extraordinary place the Lab School is and decided I wanted to find out for myself. On a crisp autumn morning about 4 years ago, I decided to drop by the Lab School on my way into work. I was amazed as I walked into the Castle, which is the main building of the school. As Sally hadn't arrived yet, I was invited to wait in her office. The door was always open as Sally welcomed anyone and everyone. Soon a woman came in looking like a bright rainbow with brilliant colors flowing and dazzling from head to toe. As I spoke with Sally about the school and its mission I quickly came to understand what a unique and wonderful place this was. The Lab School is a safe haven for so many kids who are bright and smart and eager to learn but can't learn in traditional ways. Sally through her hard work and years of dedication has truly created a grand new doorway to education for kids who found the doors to other schools closed to them. From that day on I became great friends with Sally and supported the school in any way that I could. I have attended the annual Gala Awards

Dinner which has raised much needed funds for the schools and honored people like Charles Schwab and Magic Johnson who had grown up with learning disabilities and struggled until they found a pathway to education. I always looked forward to visiting with Sally and offered to help in any way that I could.

Sally first saw the need for a school to help children with learning disabilities to learn and grow when her son Gary was in the first grade. While Gary was bright and creative, he was unable to read and do simple math. When Gary began to have trouble at school, his parents found that he had severe learning disabilities. The school he was attending gave them few options to help their son learn, and Sally began to realize that for Gary to excel and reach his potential he would need to be given the opportunity to learn in a way tailored to his unique needs. Using what she had learned in graduate school course work in education and observing that her son learned best through storytelling and acting things out, she set out in 1967 to create a school that would use these tools to teach children with learning disabilities.

Rather than learning through lectures and traditional textbook exercises, Sally set out to create a curriculum that would allow for artistic, visual, hands-on learning. She invited artist friends to serve as teachers and sought the help of many acquaintances to raise funds that would make the dream of the Lab School a reality. The Lab School has now for 40 years given students like Gary a chance to succeed. From this life learning opportunity, nearly all Lab School alumni graduate and over 90 percent find their way to college.

We can only imagine where these students would be without the love and dedication of Sally Smith. Where others saw kids who couldn't learn and were disruptive, Sally saw kids eager to learn and let their creativity bloom in their own special way. And why should these children, the future of our Nation, be pushed aside and forgotten about when they have so much potential and so many gifts to give?

The Lab School over the years has expanded and now has nearly 325 students enrolled. It reaches another 250 through tutoring programs for children and adults and many more through summer camps and outreach services. The school also opened a campus in Baltimore. Sally was also a professor at American University's School of Education and was in charge of the master's degree program specializing in learning disabilities. She has authored 10 books on effectively teaching students with learning disabilities and conducted workshops for educators of learning disabled children.

Sally's legacy and nurturing teaching style that sought to include and find the potential of each student will never be forgotten by those whose lives she touched. Not only did her students